SFG 2023 | LEVEL 1 | Test #32 – Solutions | ForumIAS

Q.1) Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?
a) Kakinada
b) Motupalli
c) Machilipatnam
d) Nelluru

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Motupalli port thrived as an international port in the Kakatiya kingdom. It is located in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
Knowledge Base: A 15th Century inscription, issued by the Vijayanagara Emperor Deva Raya – II was unearthed in Motupalli in 2021.
Source: UPSC CSE 2017

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the ruler Harshvardhana:
1. He was converted to Buddhism by Hiuen Tsang.
2. He abolished the dowry system in his kingdom.
3. According to Fa-Hien there was widespread poverty and famines in his rule.
Which of the above statements are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 only

Ans) b
Exp) option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: In his early life, Harsha was a devout Saiva but later he became an ardent Hinayana Buddhist. **Hiuen Tsang converted him to Mahayana Buddhism**. Harsha prohibited the use of animal food in his kingdom and punished those who kill any living being.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The **dowry system was prevalent** in Harsha's empire. Widow remarriage was not permitted, especially among higher castes. The practice of Dowry and Sati became prevalent.
Statement 3 is incorrect: The famous Chinese pilgrim, Fa-Hien visited India during the reign of Chandragupta II (Much before the reign of Harsha). Out of his nine years of stay in India, he spent six years in the Gupta Empire. He characterizes the Gupta administration as mild and benevolent. He did not write anything related to Harshvardhan's rule.
Source: https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lehs102.pdf
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/315_History_Eng/315_History_Eng_Lesson7.pdf
https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/india/history-vardhana-society.htm#:~:text=In%20his%20early%20life%2C%20Harsha,who%20kill%20any%20living%20being.

Q.3) Consider the following statements:
1. He ruled from the Chalukyan capital of Badami.
2. He defeated the army of Harsha in 618-619 AD.
3. He obtained titles of Bhattarka and Maharajadhiraja.
Above statements are referring to which of the following rulers?
a) Narasimhavarman II
b) Kirtivarman I
c) Mangalesha
d) Pulakesin II

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Ans) d

Exp) option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Narasimhavarman II or Narasimha Varma II(r. 700 - 729 CE), popularly known as Rajasimha Pallava, was a ruler of the Pallava kingdom.

Option b is incorrect: Kirttivarman I was a ruler of the Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi (present-day Badami) in India. He ruled parts of present-day Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. He expanded the Chalukya kingdom by defeating the Nalas, the Kadambas, the Alupas, and the Gangas of Talakad.

Option c is incorrect: Mangalesha was a king of the Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi in Karnataka, India. He succeeded his brother Kirttivarman I on the throne, and ruled a kingdom that stretched from southern Gujarat in north to Bellary-Kurnool region in the south, in the western part of the Deccan region.

Option d is correct: Pulakesin II (609-642 AD) was one of the greatest rulers of the Chalukya dynasty, He **ruled from the Chalukyan capital of Badami**. **He defeated Harshavardhana in the year 618 A.D.** Researchers claim to have fixed the date by decoding the copper plate. The battle occurred between 612 AD and 634 A.D, as per the new discovery the victory of Pulikeshi might have taken place exactly in the winter of 618-19 AD. The titles of Pulakeshin II include **Bhattarka and Maharajadhiraja** (King of Great Kings).

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/fess111.pdf
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/%E2%80%98Pulakeshin%E2%80%99s-victory-over-Harsha-was-in-618-AD%E2%80%99/article14255348.ece

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Pallavas:
1. The Kanchi Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram was constructed during the reign of Pallavas.
2. Pallava king Narasimhavarman defeated the Chalukyas.
3. Pallava king Mahendravarman I built a five-celled cave temple at Pallavaram.
Which of the above statement are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Kanchi Kailasanathar Temple** at Kanchipuram are famous temples that were constructed during the **reign of Pallavas**. Kailasanathar Temple was built by the Pallavas during 650 AD-705 AD. Kailasanathar Temple is a Shiva Kanchi, which is one among the three Kanchis in Kancheepuram, the other two being the Vishnu Kanchi and the Jain Kanchi.

Statement 2 is correct: In 642, **Narasimhavarman** I sent his force to capture and **destroy Vatapi**, which was the capital of **Chalukyas**. In this battle, Pulakeshin II loses his life. After the victory, Narasimhavarman I constructed a temple devoted to Maliikarjuna, commemorating his victory in Vatapi.

Statement 3 is correct: Mahendravarman I (Reign: 600 AD – 630 AD) **introduced new style of rock-cut temple architecture.** He introduced a new technique in the temple architecture. He carved out temples from huge rocks without using bricks, wood and mortar. **For example, he built the five-celled cave temple at Pallavaram.**

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/kefa106.pdf
Tamil Nadu state board.

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Q.5) With reference to 'Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)', consider the following statements:
1. Ministry of Water Resources is the nodal ministry for implementing the mission.
2. The objective of the mission is to develop technologies for mining of deep-sea resources.
3. Under the mission, a submarine will be developed to carry people to a depth of 6000 meters in the ocean.
4. One of the expected outcomes of the missions is provision of clean drinking water for people.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

With a view to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources, **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the proposal of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on "Deep Ocean Mission"** at an estimated cost of Rs. 4077.0 crore for a period of five years to be implemented in a phase-wise manner. The estimated cost for the **first phase for the three years (2021-2024)** would be Rs.2823.4 crore.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Deep Ocean Mission with be a mission mode project to support the **Blue Economy Initiatives** of the Government of India. **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry** implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is one of the collaborators of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for implementation of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).

Statement 2 is correct: The major objectives of the Deep Ocean Mission are development of **technologies for deep sea mining, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics**. It will also focus on development of ocean climate change advisory services; technological innovations for exploration and conservation of Deepsea biodiversity.

Statement 3 is correct: Under the mission, 'Samudrayaan Mission' is aimed to **develop a self-propelled manned submersible to carry three human beings to a water depth of 6,000 meters** in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools for deep ocean exploration. It has an endurance of 12 hours of operational period and 96 hours in case of emergency.

Statement 4 is correct: One of the major objectives of the mission is to **provide clean drinking water and explore the avenues of desalination of water** as well as extracting minerals from the ocean belt

Source:
https://static.pib.gov.in/WriteReadData/specificdocs/documents/2022/apr/doc202242649701.pdf
https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/samudrayaan-india-s-first-manned-mission-to-send-humans-6k-m-deep-in-ocean-122080600776_1.html
https://moes.gov.in/schemes/dom?language_content_entity=en

Q.6) Consider the following statements with reference to the Kingdom of Pandyas during Sangam Age?
1. Vanji was the capital city of the kingdom of Pandyas.
2. The Pandyan Kings patronized Tamil Sangams.
3. Karikalan, is considered as the greatest Pandyan King of the Sangam age.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

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Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Vanji was the capital of the Cheras (not Pandyas). The Pandyas ruled from the capital city of Madurai. Korkai was their main port, located near the confluence of Thampraparani with the Bay of Bengal. It was famous for pearl fishery and chank diving. Korkai is referred to in the Periplus as Kolkoi.

Statement 2 is correct: The Pandyan kings patronized the Tamil Sangams and facilitated the compilation of the Sangam poems.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Karikalan, son of Ilanjetchenni, is portrayed as the greatest Chola King (not Pandya king) of the Sangam age. Pattinappalai gives a vivid account of his reign. Karikalan's foremost military achievement was the defeat of the Cheras and Pandyas, supported by as many as eleven Velir chieftains at Venni.

Source: TN SCERT-CH5-evolution of society in south india
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/History_Module1.pdf

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding kadambas dynasty:
1. Kadamba was an ancient royal dynasty of Bihar.
2. They find mention in the Tamil Sangam literature.
3. They severely criticized the Vedic practices followed by their contemporary dynasties.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b

Exp) option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Kadamba (345 – 525 CE) was an ancient **royal dynasty of Karnataka** that ruled northern Karnataka and the Konkan from Banavasi in the present-day Uttara Kannada district.

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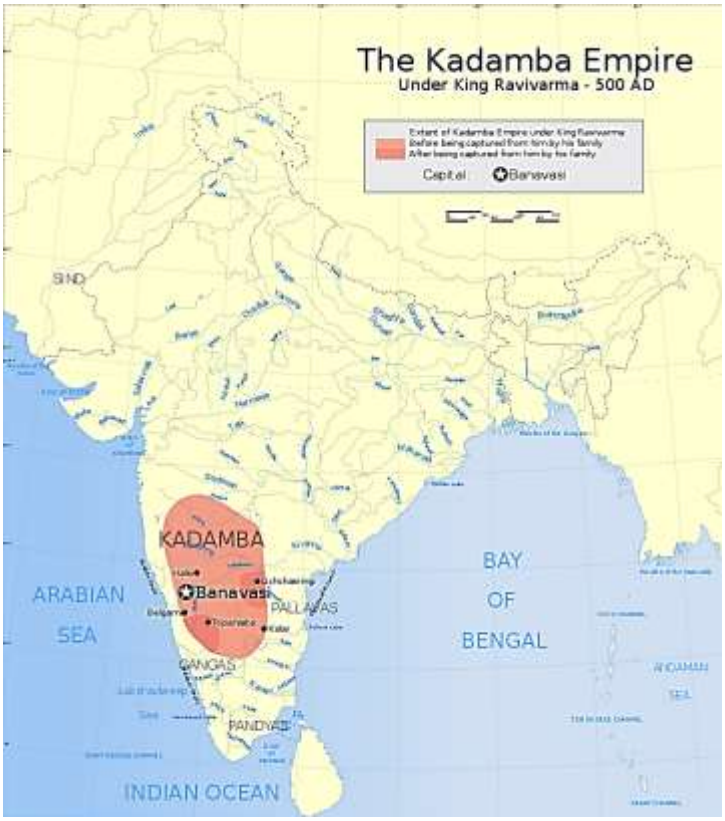

Statement 2 is correct: The Kadambas' find mention in the Tamil Sangam literature as totemic worshipers of the Kadambu tree and the Hindu god Subramanya, a popular deity in South India.

Statement 3 is incorrect: They followed the Vedic practices. Mayura sharma, the founder, was a Brahmin by birth, but his heirs changed their surname to Varma to signify their Kshatriya rank. **The horse sacrifice (Ashwamedha) was carried out by several Kadamba monarchs**, such as Krishna Varman. Their Talagunda inscription begins with a prayer to Lord Shiva.

Knowledge Base: The Kadambas were an ancient Karnataka royal dynasty that controlled northern Karnataka and the Konkan from Banavasi in the present-day Uttara Kannada district. Mayurasharma established the kingdom in about 345, and it later showed its capacity to grow to imperial dimensions. The dynasty then ruled as a feudatory of the bigger Kannada empires, the Chalukya and Rashtrakuta empires, for about 500 years, during which time they expanded into Goa and Hanagal.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/gess102.pdf

https://karunadu.karnataka.gov.in/Gazetteer/Publications/Special%20Publications/Kanara%20Dist%20-by%20James%20M%20Campbell/Chpt%20-%207.pdf

Q.8) Consider the following statement regarding the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty:

1. They offered successful resistance to the Arabs during the time of Nagabhata I.
2. There is a detailed description of mantriparishad or ministers in the inscriptions of this period.
3. Caste system was prevalent in India during the Gurjara-Pratihara period.
4. Teli-ka-Mandir in Gwalior fort is the oldest surviving large-scale Pratihara work.

Which of the above statement are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 3 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is correct: The Gurjara-Pratiharas came to prominence in the second quarter of the 8th century, when they offered **successful resistance to the Arabs** during the time of **Nagabhata I**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In the Gurjara-Pratihara history, kings occupied the highest position in the state and had enormous powers, kings adopted big titles such as 'Parmeshwara', 'Maharajadhiraja', 'Parambhaterak'. However, there is no reference to mantriparishad or ministers in the inscriptions of that period.

Statement 3 is correct: The **caste system was prevalent** in India during the Gurjara-Pratihara period and the reference to all four varnas of the Vedic period is found in the inscription as well. The inscription refers to the Brahmans as Vipra and several Prakrit words are used for Kshatriyas. The people of each caste were divided into different classes.

Statement 4 is correct: The Gurjara-Pratihara rulers were great patrons of arts, architecture, and literature. The most important groups of architectural works related to early Pratiharas can be found at Osian in the heart of Gurjara and at great fort of Chittor. They had also reached north-central India. The extraordinary **Teli-ka-Mandir in Gwalior fort is the oldest surviving large-scale Pratihara work.**

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/gess102.pdf

Q.9) Consider the following pairs:

Types of Villages	Description
1. Ur	General assembly of the local residents
2. Sabha	Assembly of Brahmana landholders
3. Nagaram	Associations of traders

Which of the above pair is/are correct?

a) 1 and 3 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct. Ur: The general **assembly of the local residents** of non-Brahmadeya villages (or Vellanvagai villages). It is believed that members of the assembly were less than ten. Ur is generally a settlement of peasants.

Pair 1 is correct. Sabha: Two inscriptions belonging to the period of Parantaka I found at Uttaramerur provide details about the formation and functioning of Sabhas. The Sabha was an **assembly of Brahmans/adult male members** in the agraharas which enjoyed a large measure of autonomy.

Pair 3 is correct. Nagaram: Nagaram was an assembly of merchants, traders and artisans.

Source: https://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/gess102.pdf
https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/fess109.pdf

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Q.10) Consider the following pairs:

Places in news	Description
1. Matua Islands	It is the uninhabited volcanic island forming part of Indonesian archipelago.
2. Darwaza Gas Crater	It is located in Karakum desert, Turkmenistan and was burning since last 5 decades.
3. Mount Aso Volcano	It is the largest active volcano in Japan.
4. Mauna Loa	It is the world's largest active volcano on the Earth, recently erupted in Hawaii.

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2, 3 and 4 only
c) 1, 2 and 3 only
d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Matua Islands is an uninhabited volcanic island located in **Kuril Islands chain in the Sea of Okhotsk**. Recently, Russian military has deployed its defense missile system on this island. **Russia and Japan have disputes over Kuril Islands.**

Pair 2 is correct: Darwaza Crater is located in **Karakum desert, Turkmenistan**. The crater is burning for 5 decades and hence, also called **as 'gateway to hell'**. Recently, Turkmenistan President has asked experts to find ways to extinguish the fire.

Pair 3 is correct: Mount Aso Volcano is the largest **active volcano in Japan** and located on the islands of **Kyushu**. It is a **composite volcano.**

Pair 4 is correct: Mauna Loa is an **active shield volcano** and considered as the **largest volcano on the Earth**, dwarfed only by Tamu Massif**. Tamu Massif is a seamount** in the Pacific Ocean. Mauna Loa has **been recently erupted in 2022**.

Knowledge Base:

Other volcanoes in news:

Volcano	Location
Fuego Volcano	Guatemala
Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai	Part of Tongan Archipelago, Pacific Ocean
Fagradalsfjall volcano	Iceland
Mount Anak Krakatau	Indonesia
Shiveluch Volcano	Russia (Kamchatka Peninsula)
Mount Semeru	Indonesia
Mount Etna	Italy

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Villarrica Volcano	Chile

Source: https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2022/12/2022-year-volcanic-activity/672508/

Q.11) The Chinese traveller Yuan Chwang (Hiuen Tsang) who visited India recorded the general conditions and culture of India at that time. In this context, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The roads and river-routes were completely immune from robbery.
2. As regards punishment for offences, ordeals by fire, water and poison were the instruments for determining the innocence or guilt of a person.
3. The tradesmen had to pay duties at ferries and barrier stations.
Select the correct answer using the codes given below.
a) 1 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Yuan Chwang was a Chinese Buddhist monk and traveller who travelled across India for 17 years.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Yuan Chwang has mentioned in his journal that he was robbed and the thugs had decided to sacrifice him, but he was saved by a hurricane.
Statement 2 is correct: The punishment for social offences according to the traveller's account were to cut off the nose or an ear or a hand. Minor offences were dealt with fines. And to determine guilt or innocence ordeals by fire water and poison were the instruments which were used.
Statement 3 is correct: Yuan Chwang also mentioned that tax was collected from the tradesman at ferries and barrier stations.
Source: UPSC CSE 2013

Q.12) The post Gupta period witnessed a rise of a large number of regional kingdoms in ancient India. In this context, consider the following pairs:

Kingdom	**Region where they ruled**
1. Maukharis	Uttar Pradesh
2. Gaudas	Gujarat
3. Kamarupa	Assam
4. Maitrakas	Bengal

How many pair/s is/are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) Only three pairs
d) All the four pairs

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The Guptas with their seat of power in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar ruled over Northern and Western India from 4th century CE to late 6th century CE with its zenith, from 319 to 467 CE. With its **disintegration the Northern India again split up into several kingdoms**.

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Option 1 is correct: The Maukhari dynasty controlled the vast plains of Ganga-Yamuna doab (modern Uttar Pradesh) from their capital at Kannauj. They earlier served as vassals of the Guptas and later of Harsha's Vardhana dynasty. The Maukharis established their independence during the 6th century A.D. Around 606 CE, a large area of their empire was reconquered by the later Guptas. According to Hieun-Tsang, the territory may have been **lost to King Shashanka of the Gauda Kingdom**, who declared independence circa 600 AD.

Option 2 is incorrect: The **Gauda Kingdom or Shashankas** ruled over the **region of Bengal (modern-day West Bengal and Bangladesh).** They are the **enemies of Pushyabutis of Thanesar**. Shahsanka, the Gauda ruler treacherously murdered Rajavardhana, brother of Harshavardhana.

Option 3 is correct: Kamarupa ruled over the region of modern-day Assam from its capital at Pragiyaotisha (modern Gauhati). **Bhaskaravarman**, king of Kamarupa dynasty made political alliances with Harshavardhana of Thaneswar, against the alliance of the Gauda and East Malwa.

Option 4 is incorrect: The Maitraka dynasty **ruled western India (modern Gujarat)** from approximately 475 to 776 A.D from their capital at **Vallabhi. It** was founded by **Bhatarka**, who was a **military governor of Saurashtra under Gupta Empire,** who had established himself as the independent around 475 CE.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67714/1/Unit-8.pdf

Q.13) With reference to the ancient history of India, consider the following inscriptions:

1. Banskhera inscription
2. Madhuban inscription.
3. Nalanda inscription.
4. Sonpat inscription.

Which of the following is common between all these above inscriptions?

a) All these inscriptions mention about King Pulakeshin II
b) All these inscriptions mention about King Harsha.
c) All these inscriptions mention about King Bhaskaravarman.
d) All these inscriptions mention Gupta king Kumaragupta I.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Statement 1: Banskhera copper plate inscription is situated in the Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. An inscription dated **AD 628 was found here in 1894**. The inscription says that Harsha had granted **Markatsagar village to two brahmans-Balachandra and Bhattaswami.** This also speaks of the victory of **Rajyavardhana** over the Malwa king Devagupta.

Statement 2: The Madhuban copper plate inscription in Azamgarh district of **Uttar Pradesh** and it is dated **AD 631.** It mentions the **grant of Somkunda village to Brahamanas by Harsha**.

Statement 3 and 4: The Nalanda and Sonpat are two **seals of Harsha that have** been found in Nalanda (Bihar) and Sonpat (Haryana)**. The Nalanda** seal is made of **clay**, while the **Sonepat clay is made of coppe**r. These seals contain the **names of all the kings, from Rajyavardhana I to Harshavardhana**, of the Vardhana dynasty. It is the **Sonepat seal** which gives **Harshavardhana** as the full name of Harsha.

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.14) This court poet authored the first formal biography of a King in ancient India. He also authored a romantic novel in Sanskrit called Kadambari. Who among the following are the king and the author mentioned here?

a) Sandhyakar Nandi and Ramapala
b) Vikramaditya VI and Bilhana

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c) Harshavardhana and Banabhatta
d) Hemachandra and Kumarapala

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The above-mentioned phrase talks about the **Harshacharitra written by Banabhatta.** This book gives an account of Harshavardhana's rise to power. It inspired **new genre of literature**, the rulers like **Ramapala** of Bengal and Bihar, **Vikramaditya VI** of the Western Chalukya dynasty, **Kumarapala** of the Chalukya dynasty of Gujarat appear as the central characters of the charitakavya like **Ramacharita, Vikramankadevacharita and Kumarapalacharita respectively.**

Option a is incorrect: Sandhyakar Nandi is a court poet of pala ruler Ramapala. He composed **Ramacharitam**, a biography of a Pala ruler Ramapala. It describes how forest chiefs were brought into their alliance through lavish gifts by Ramapala. **It was written after Harshacharitra.**

Option b is incorrect: Bilhana is a court poet of Vikramaditya **VI of the Western Chalukya dynasty.** He composed **Vikramankadevacharita** .

Option c is correct: Banabhatta also known as Bana is a court poet of Harshavardhana. He is an author of **Harshacharita**, **a biography of Indian emperor Harsha**. It is considered as the **first formal biography of a king.** It inaugurated a new literary genre in India. Bana also authored a romantic sanskrit novel called **Kadambari.**

Option d is incorrect: Hemachandra composed the Kumarapala charitra. Kumarapala (1143 – 1172 CE) was an Indian king from the Chaulukya (Solanki) dynasty of Gujarat. He ruled present-day Gujarat.

Source: https://www.britannica.com/biography/Bana-Indian-writer

Q.15) Consider the following pairs:

Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)	**State**
1. Hajong Tortoise Lake	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Borjuli Wild Rice Site	Assam
3. Chabimura	Odisha
4. Amarkantak	Madhya Pradesh
5. Arittapatti	Tamil Nadu

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) Only two pair
b) Only three pairs
c) Only four pairs
d) All five pairs

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Recently, new Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) have been notified under the provisions of **Biodiversity Act, 2002**. **A total of 36 BHS**, including the recent additions, have been notified so far.

Pair 1 is incorrect: Hajong Tortoise Lake is located in Dima Hasao, Assam.

Pair 2 is correct: Borjuli Wild Rice Site is located in Sonitpur, Assam.

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Pair 3 is incorrect: Chabimura is located on Gomati, Tripura.
Pair 4 is correct: Amarkantak is located in Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh.
Pair 5 is correct: Arittapatti is located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
Details of the new BHS:

BHS	Location	Important Points
Debbari/ Chabimura	Gomati, Tripura	1) **River forest ecosystem** with rich flora and fauna 2) Unique habitat for threatened plant species like **dhup tree and cane resources**
Betlingshib and its surroundings	North District, Tripura	1) Betlingshib is the **highest peak of Tripura** (Jampui Hills) 2) Vegetation is totally unique as compared to mainland Tripura. This is due to change in altitude, topography and climate. 3) Also known for **agro-ecosystem model**
Amarkantak	Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh	1) Located on **Maikal range** which connects Vindhyachal and Satpura mountain ranges 2) Origin of 3 major rivers- **Narmada River, Son River and Johila river**
Hajong Tortoise Lake	Dima Hasao, Assam	1) It is natural habitat of 'Black Softshell Turtle'. (IUCN Status: **Critically Endangered**) 2) Other species: Chinese pangolin, Clouded Leopard, Asiatic Black Bear, Fishing Cat, Sambar, Western Hoolock Gibbon, Wreathed Hornbill etc.
Borjuli Wild Rice Site	Sonitpur, Assam	1) Unique due to population richness of **Oryza Rufipogon species of wild rice** 2) This species possesses genes for **disease and pest resistance, tolerance to submergence and salinity** 3) It is also **tolerant to flooding and acidic soils** 4) Rufipogon is **photosensitive** and flowers during short days during November and December.
Arittapatti	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	**1) 3 flagship raptor species- Laggar Falcon, Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle** **2)** Others- Indian Pangolin Python and Slender Loris
Mahendragiri Hills	Gajapati, Odisha	1) This site has **several micro climatic conditions like tropical shola, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous** etc. 2) Represents 40% of the reported flora of Odisha. 3) Site of ancient temples of- **Kunti, Bhima, Arjuna and Yudhishthir.**

Knowledge Base:

About Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS):

1) Under **Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, BHS are **declared by state governments**, in consultation with local bodies.
2) **State Government in consultation with Central Government may frame rules** for management and conservation of BHS.

3) The creation of BHS **may not put any restriction on prevailing practices** and usages of local communities, other than those voluntarily decided by them.
4) **Terrestrial, coastal, inland and marine ecosystems**- all comprising rich biodiversity can be declared as BHS.

Source: http://nbaindia.org/content/106/29/1/bhs.html
http://nbaindia.org/uploaded/ut/Final%20BHS%20guidelines%20approved%20in%20the%2019th%20Authority.pdf

Q.16) With reference to the Vardhana dynasty in ancient India, consider the following statements:
1. It was established by King Prabhakarvardhana.
2. King Harshavardhana of this dynasty shifted its capital from Thanesar to Kanauj.
3. Its empire under Harshavardhana extended up to river Kaveri in the south.
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
A variety of sources such as **Harshacharita**, accounts of **Hiuen-tsang** and some **inscriptions and coins** inform us about the rise of the family of **Pushyabhutis (also known as the Vardhana dynasty)** which first ruled from **Thaneshwar** in Haryana and later from **Kanauj** in Uttar Pradesh.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Prabhakarvardhana was the fourth king (thus he is not a founder). He established **matrimonial relations with the Maukharis** by marrying his daughter Rajyasri with Grahavarman. **Banabhatta states that the founder king of this dynasty at Thaneshwar was Pushyabhuti** and that the family was known as Pushyabhuti vamsha.
Statement 2 is correct: Harsha ascended the throne in 606 CE. He belonged to the Pushyabhuti dynasty based around Thanesar (modern Ambala in Punjab). As Thanesar was too close to the **threats from the northwest**. **Harsha shifted his capital from Thanesar to Kanauj in Uttar Pradesh.**
Statement 3 is incorrect: The kingdoms of Harsha and Pulakesin II touched on the border of the river Narmada. From the account of Huien Tsang it appears that **Harsha took the initiative to extend its empire to the south of river Narmada but could not achieve any success against Pulakesin II.**
Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.17) In context of the cultural history of India, which among the following plays/books are said to have been written by the King Harshavardhana?
1. Kavirajamarga
2. Nagananda
3. Priyadarsika
4. Rathnavali
5. Mathavilasa Prahasana
Select the correct answer using the code given below:
a) 1,3 and 5 only
b) 1,2 and 4 only
c) 2,3 and 4 only
d) 2 and 5 only

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Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

Various rulers from ancient India had authored some of the famous literary works produced in that time. It had a major impact on the development of art and literature in ancient India.

Option 1 is incorrect: Amoghavarsha I was the greatest emperor of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. He was the **author of Prasnottaramalika, a Sanskrit work** and **Kavirajamarga**, the earliest **Kannada work** on poetics.

Option 2, 3 and 4 is correct: Harsha patronized literary and cultural activities. He was gifted liberally for the promotion of art and education. He himself is considered as a renowned writer and he is the author of **Priyadarsika, Rathnavali and Nagananda.**

Option 5 is incorrect: Mahendravarman I (600–630 CE) was a **Pallava emperor** and he owned a title of **Chitrakarpuli** owing to his literary prowess. He composed **Mathavilasa Prahasana in Sanskri**t. These work in Sanskrit set the standard for Sanskrit literature in south India.

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.18) With reference to the ancient king Harshavardhana, consider the following statements:

1. The Buddhist council convened by him at Kannauj resulted in the emergence of Mahayana sect of Buddhism.
2. Harsha ruled according to the ideals laid down in the Dharmashastras.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang visited India during the reign of Harsha. His accounts were one of the major sources to deduce Harsha's religious orientation and policy.

Statement 1 is incorrect: The fourth Buddhist Council held under the patronage of **Kanishka in Kashmir in 72 AD** gave birth to the **Mahayana sect of Buddhism. Harshavardhana** subscribed to the **Mahayana school of thought**.

Statement 2 is correct: Harsha ruled according to the ideals laid down in the Dharmashastras. Dharmasastras is a genre of **Sanskrit texts on law and conduct** and refers to the treatises (sastras) on dharma.

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67714/1/Unit-8.pdf

Q.19) With reference to Harsha's relation with China, consider the following statements:

1. The Chinese army under Tai Tsung unsuccessfully tried to invade India during Harsha's reign.
2. Harsha in alliance with Kamarupa ruler penetrated the Chinese defence and prisoned some Chinese soldiers.
3. After Harsha's death, Tai Tsung occupied part of Harsha's empire.

Which of the following statement/s given above is/are **incorrect**?

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

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Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Harsha had friendly relations with China. The contemporary **T'ang emperor, Tai Tsung,** sent an embassy to his court in 643 and again in 647 CE.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Harsha had a cordial relation with China. Thus, there was no tension between China and Harsha, let alone attacking the Chinese army in alliance with Kamarupa ruler.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Chinese ambassador rushed to Nepal and Assam to raise a force on learning that the throne was **usurped by an undeserving king.** Later, **the king who had usurped the throne was taken to China as a prisoner.**

Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.20) Consider the following statements with reference to the term 'Fujiwhara Effect', that has been seen in news recently:

1. In meteorology, the 'Fujiwhara effect' applies to the interaction of two extra-tropical cyclones.
2. The Fujiwhara effect ends up in reducing the impact of the cyclones that interact with each other.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Recently in 2022, **super typhoon Hinnamnor, the strongest tropical cyclone of the year, was hurtling towards Taiwan from the western Pacific Ocean. In** recent years, several storms have come close to **undergoing the Fujiwhara Effect.**

Statement 1 is incorrect: The **Fujiwhara Effect** is any **interaction between tropical storms (not extra-tropical cyclones)** formed around the same time in the same ocean region with their centers or eyes at a distance of less than 1,400 km, with intensity that could vary between a depression (wind speed under 63 km per hour) and a super typhoon (wind speed over 209 km per hour). In general**, two tropical cyclones may start to affect each other when the distance between them is around 12 latitude degrees (about 1350 kilometres).** When this occurs, the tropical cyclones will rotate around one another in a counter-clockwise direction (in Northern Hemisphere) about their geometric centre.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Fujiwhara effect can turn two cyclones into one mega cyclone. The **interaction could lead to changes in the track and intensity of either or both storms' systems. In rare cases, the two systems could merge**, especially when they are of similar size and intensity, to form a bigger storm.

Source: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/world/perfect-storm-what-is-the-fujiwhara-effect--85337
https://www.hko.gov.hk/en/education/tropical-cyclone/tracking/00160-what-is-fujiwhara-effect.html

Q.21) With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Famous Place	**Present State**
1. Bhilsa	Madhya Pradesh
2. Dwarasamudra	Maharashtra
3. Girinagar	Gujarat

4. Sthanesvara Uttar Pradesh
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 1 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is correct: As a general of Sultan Jalaluddin, Alauddin Khalji raided the Paramara city of Bhilsa in 1293 CE. He damaged the city's Hindu temples, and looted a large amount of wealth. It was renamed Vidisha in 1956 and lies in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
Statement 2 is *incorrect*: Halebidu (which used to be called Dorasamudra or Dwarasamudra) is a town located in Hassan District, Karnataka, India. Halebidu was the regal capital of the Hoysala Empire in the 12th century.
Statement 3 is correct: Girnar, also known as Girinagar ('city-on-the-hill') or Revatak Parvata, is a group of mountains in the Junagadh District of Gujarat, India.
Statement 4 is *incorrect*: Thanesar (sometimes called Thaneswar and, archaically, Sthanishvara) is a historic town and an important Hindu pilgrimage centre on the banks of the Saraswati River in the state of Haryana.
Source: UPSC CSE 2020

Q.22) In context of the administration during Harsha's period, consider the following statements:
1. There was a clear separation of military and civil departments.
2. Compared to Gupta times, punishments for offences were less severe in nature.
3. The council of ministers played an important role in the selection of king.
4. Each Vishaya (district) was divided into several tehsils called Pathakas.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 4 only
c) 3 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The administration is the backbone of any empire. As such, Harsha to sustain his vast empire and to govern his territory and people, organized administration in the following ways.
Statement 1 is incorrect: During Harsha's time **civil and military departments were not clearly separate**. As a result, some of the top civil officers functioned in the capacity of military officers also.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Punishments for offences were more severe than that of the Gupta age. Banishment and the cutting of limbs of the body were the usual punishments. Life imprisonment was the punishment for the violations of the laws and for plotting against the king.
Statement 3 is correct: The emperor was assisted by a **council of ministers (Mantri Parishad) i**n his duties. The council played an **important role in the selection of the king** as well as framing the **foreign policy** of the empire. According to **Bhandi**, a cousin of Rajyavardhana, **Harsha's accession to the throne was approved by the parishad.**

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Statement 4 is correct: The empire was divided into several **provinces called Bhuktis**. Each Bhukti was divided into several **districts called Vishayas**. Each vishaya was further divided into several **Tehsils called Pathakas** which inturn was divided into several villages for the administrative puproses.
Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms (pg no 108)
http://sdeuoc.ac.in/sites/default/files/sde_videos/History_of_Early_India_stdy_mtrl_BA_hstry_III_sem_on30oct2015.pdf (pg no 78)

Q.23) With reference to the Harsha's empire in ancient India, consider the following pairs:

Officials	**Functions**
1. Avanti	Minister of Finance
2. Mimamsakas	Judicial officer
3. Banu	Record keeper

How many pairs is/are correctly matched?
a) only one pair
b) only two pairs
c) All three pairs
d) None of the above

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Harsha gave importance to the administration. He divided the various administrative functions of an empire and vested each person with specific roles and responsibilities.
Option 1 is incorrect: Avanti was the **Minister of war and foreign relations** during the Harsha empire.
Option 2 is correct: Harsha appointed **Mimamsakas to dispense justice** in his empire.
Option 3 is correct: Banu is a **Record keeper** in Harsha's empire.
Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.24) With reference to the revenue administration of Harsha empire, consider the following statements:
1. Bali was the largest source of revenue.
2. Bhaga was the tax paid in kind and Hiranya was the tax paid in cash.
3. Uparikara is a form of tribute paid by the peasants to the officials of the empire.
Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 3 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: Bali appears to be a ferry tax during the Harsh's rule. Compared to Bhaga (the land tax) the proportion of Bali was very minimal. Hence, Bali was not the largest source of tax revenue. According to Huen-Tsang, **royal land had four parts.** One part was spent on **religious activities and government works**. Second was spent over **public works and officials**. The third part was spent to provide **reward and salaries to the scholars** and the fourth was spent on **donation and meritorious acts.**
Statement 2 is correct: Bhaga, Hiranya and Bali were the three kinds of tax collected during Harsha's reign. **Bhaga was the land tax paid in kind** which is 1/6th of the produce. **Hiranya was the tax** paid by farmers and merchants in **cash**.

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Statement 3 is correct: Uparikara is a **tribute paid by the peasants to the divisional officer called Uparika**. The main source of income for Harsha's empire was Udranga (land-tax).
Source: Class XI: TN SCERT Chapter - Harsha and Rise of Regional Kingdoms

Q.25) Consider the following rivers and their respective location:

River	Location
1. Thamirabarani River	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
2. Sukapaika River	Jammu and Kashmir
3. Bhogdoi River	Assam and Nagaland
4. Lukha River	Meghalaya

Which of the above-given pairs is/are correctly matched?
a) 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 3 only
c) 2 and 4 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Pair 1 is incorrect: The **Thamiraparani river is the only perennial (continuous flow of water) river in Tamil Nadu.** This is the **shortest river in the state, the Thamirabarani starts in Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats in the Ambasamudram taluk, flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at Korkai into the Gulf of Mannar** (Bay of Bengal). It thus originates and ends in the same state.
Pair 2 is incorrect: Sukapaika is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi River in Odisha. It **branches away from the Mahanadi at Ayatpur village in Cuttack district and flows for about 40 kilometres (km) before rejoining its parent river at Tarapur** in the same district. Sukapaika river is an important system of the Mahanadi to control floodwater and maintain the flow in the river as well as the Bay of Bengal.
Pair 3 is correct: Bhogdoi river originates from Mokokchung in Nagaland where it is also known as Tsujenyong nullah and is the south bank tributary of the river Brahmaputra. **It is an inter-state river (flowing between Assam and Nagaland) and joins Dhansiri river** near its confluence with Brahmaputra.
Pair 4 is correct: The **Lukha river is located in the southern part of east Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya where most of Meghalaya's rat-hole coal mines are located. It** has become a victim of the unsustainable large-scale mining of coal and limestone, allegedly responsible for the pollution that turns the river its surreal winter hue. It **receives water from the Lunar River (Wah Lunar) and small streams draining from the Narpuh Reserve Forest** and the undulating hills of the area while flowing down.
Source: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/water/thamirabarani-govt-atree-adopt-hyper-local-approach-to-restore-one-of-south-asia-s-oldest-rivers-85134
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/breathing-life-into-a-dead-river-in-odisha/article66045196.ece
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/detoxing-pilot-project-has-brought-a-river-back-from-dead-meghalaya/article36926683.ece
https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/pollution/coal-mining-waste-discharge-encroachment-river-bhogdoi-has-been-dying-a-slow-death-78852

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Q.26) With reference to the Imperial Cholas, consider the following statements:
1. They were one of the dynasties ruling South India during the Sangam Age.
2. They extended Indian rule over Ceylon.
3. Their founder was a former feudatory of the Chalukyas.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) 3 only
d) 2 and 3 only

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Under them, various illustrious rulers like Aditya Chola, Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra Chola, etc contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such as architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit).

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Imperial Cholas refer to the royal dynasty ruling over South India, especially the region then known as Tondaimandalam (southern portions of modern-day Andhra Pradesh and northern regions of modern-day Tamil Nadu) between the 10th and 12th centuries CE. They were a surviving branch of the Cholas, a tribe that used to rule a part of South India during the Sangam Age (300 BCE - 300 CE). The Sangam Age occurred much before the existence of the Imperial Cholas. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Imperial Cholas were named so because like the Imperial empires of Europe, which extended their rule over other countries and their people, the Cholas of the 10th century also conquered foreign lands, ruling them, drawing their resources and spreading Indian culture in those lands. These lands included Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and countries around the Malay Peninsula - like Java, Sumatra, Bali, Cambodia, etc. Hence this statement is **correct.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Imperial Cholas were former feudatories of the Pallavas, not the Chalukyas. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

It was the Pallavas, not the Chalukyas who occupied Tondaimandalam. One of the Imperial Chola dynasty's early rulers, Aditya (son of founder Vijaylaya), defeated Aparajita of the Pallava dynasty, thus ending them and their rule in Tondaimandalam, as he annexed the area under his direct rule.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board SCERT Class 11th, Ch-13, Pg- 141

Q.27) 'He was one of the most illustrious rulers of the Imperial Chola dynasty. He defeated the combined armies of his enemies - the Pandyas and Ceylon at the famous Battle of Vellore. He assumed the title of Maduraikonda. The Western Ganga's, Kodumbalur chiefs and the ruler of Kerala were his political allies. The famous Uttaramerur inscriptions have also been attributed to his reign. He is credited with providing the golden roof for the vimana of the Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram.
Which of the following rulers from the Chola empire is being described in the above paragraph?
a) Rajaraja I
b) Kulottunga I
c) Rajendra I
d) Parantaka I

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

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The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Under them, various illustrious rulers like Aditya Chola, Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra Chola, etc contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit).

Option a is incorrect: Arumolivarman Chola, also famously known as Rajaraja I, was one of the greatest rulers of the Chola dynasty. He led military campaigns not only against the Pandyas at Madurai and Ceylon, but also Maldives, the Sailendra empire in Malaya peninsula, etc. However he is credited with building the Brihadeswara Temple and not the Nataraja temple at Chidambaram. Nor do the Uttaramerur inscriptions belong to his reign. Hence this option is **incorrect.**

Option b is incorrect: Kulottunga I was the last important ruler of the Imperial Chola dynasty. He ruled much later (1070 - 1122 CE) than the Uttaramerur inscriptions (920 CE approx). He did not undertake military campaigns against countries in South East Asia. Hence this option is **incorrect.**

He is credited with uniting the Chalukyas of Vengi with the Cholas. He was also given the title of Shungam-tavirtta (abolisher of taxes) as he abolished land taxes in drought years providing much needed relief to the people.

Option c is incorrect: Rajendra I was the son of Rajaraja I. He too undertook extensive military campaigns under Ceylon, the Chera & Pandyas, whose empires he annexed into the Chola empire, Western Chalukyas, and even Mahipala I of Pala dynasty in the north. After this victory, he took the title of Gangaikondachola (not Maduraikonda). Also, the Uttaramerur inscriptions do not belong to his reign. Hence this option is **incorrect.**

Option d is correct: Parantaka I was one of the most illustrious rulers from the early days of the Imperial Chola dynasty. He was the son of Aditya I Chola. He reigned from 907 to 953 CE, and hence the famous Uttaramerur inscriptions, which give details about the system of local governance in villages of Chola empire (dating to approx 920 CE) belong to his reign. He captured Madurai by defeating Pandyas, the long-time enemies of the Chola and assumed the titles Maduraikonda (capturer of Madurai) & Madurantaka (destroyer of Madurai). His reign was marked by 2 important battles

1) Battle of Vellore: wherein he defeated an alliance of his enemies - the Pandya king and the king of Ceylon (Sri Lanka)
2) Battle of Takkolam: wherein he was defeated by the Rashtrakuta king, Krishna III in 949 CE.

He was a great builder of temples and is credited with providing the golden roof for the vimana of the Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram (a Dravidian style Temple). Hence this option is **correct.**

Source: Tamil Nadu Board SCERT, Class 11th, Ch-13, Pg-141, 142;
Ancient and Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.34, 9.35, 9.36, 9.37

Q.28) With reference to the reign of Rajaraja I, consider the following statements:
1. He led a naval expedition against the Sailendra empire in Malaya Peninsula.
2. He is credited with the construction of the Brihadisvara temple.
3. He was given the title of Pandita Chola.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Under them, various illustrious rulers like Aditya Chola, Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra Chola, etc contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit).

Statement 1 is correct: Rajaraja I's predecessors were mostly focused on establishing and consolidating Chola power in Tondaimandalam (a historic region spreading from south areas of modern-day Andhra to northern areas of modern-day Tamil Nadu). It was Rajaraja I who started undertaking ambitious and large-scale expansionist military expeditions overseas against Chola neighbours.

1) He started a campaign against Ceylon, which was completed by his son Rajendra I Chola.
2) He conquered the Maldives islands.
3) He led a naval expedition against the Sailendra empire in Malaya Peninsula (Java, Bali, Sumatra, etc). It must be noted that it was his son, Rajendra I, who led the expedition against the Sri Viijaya empire in SouthEast Asia.

Hence this statement is correct.

Statement 2 is correct: Rajaraja I was a great Shiva devotee. He built the Brihadisvara temple in Thanjavur dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is one of the biggest temples of South India, and one of the best examples of the Dravidian style of temple architecture. It is famous for its Vimana, which is one of the tallest in all of South India. It is also known as the Dakshina Meru, and has been included in UNESCO's World heritage Site List. This temple is also known as Rajarajeswaram Temple, alluding to the person responsible for its construction (Rajaraja I). Hence this statement is correct.

This must not be confused with the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram that was built by Narsimhavarman II of the Pallava dynasty.

Statement 3 is incorrect: It was Rajendra I Chola, not his father Rajaraja I Chola, who was given the title of Pandita Chola. Hence this statement is incorrect.

He was given this title as Rajendra I Chola was a great patron of learning.

Source: Tamil Nadu Board SCERT, Class 11th, Ch-11, pg-126,127;
Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.17, 9,34 to 9.37

Q.29) With reference to the political developments in South India during the Early Medieval Period, consider the following statements:

1. The Pandyas took the place of Cholas after their decline.
2. The Later Chalukyas were replaced by the Kalabhra dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Early Medieval Period starting from the 7th century CE, saw a number regional empires in South India.

Statement 1 is correct: The Imperial Chola empire collapsed in the 13th century CE. The political vacuum created by their collapse was filled by their longtime enemies - the Pandyas in the deep South. In the Andhra region, the Cholas were succeeded by the Hoysalas. **Hence this statement is correct.**

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Western Chalukyas ruled over an extensive area in the Deccan for about two centuries after which the Rashtrakutas became powerful. The family of Western Chalukyas had its offshoots like the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and the Chalukyas of Kalyani. These offshoots of the Chalukyas (known

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as Eastern Chalukyas/ Later Chalukyas) were finally replaced by the Kakatiya dynasty in the 12th century CE in the eastern Deccan region comprising eastern parts of modern-day Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In the Western Deccan region (from Narmada in North to Tungabhadra in South), the Later Chalukyas were succeeded by the Yadava (also called the Seuna/ Sevuna) dynasty in the 12th century CE.
The Kalabhra dynasty ruled over regions of the deep South between the 3rd and 6th centuries CE (after the ancient Sangam Age), and came before and not after the Chalukyas. **Hence this statement is incorrect.** The Kalabhra dynasty was replaced by the Chalukyas and the Pallavas.
Source: Ancient & Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.38;
Ancient & early Medieval India by Upinder Singh, Ch-, Pg-

Q.30) Which of the following pair of countries have been in news for dispute over the Aegean Sea recently?
a) Italy and Greece
b) Albania and Bulgaria
c) Italy and Turkey
d) Turkey and Greece

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Greece and Turkey have been regional adversaries on a host of issues concerning the Aegean Sea since the 1970s, both asserting rival claims over their borders in the Sea.
The Aegean Sea, spanning over two lakh square kilometers, is an arm of the Mediterranean Sea. It is located in the East Mediterranean Basin with the Greek peninsula to its west and Anatolia (consisting of the Asian side of Turkey) to its east. There are more than a thousand islands in the Aegean Sea, almost all Greek, and some within two kilometers of mainland Turkey or the Turkish west coast.
The Lausanne Treaty of 1923 defined the boundaries of Turkey and Greece, and several islands, islets and other major territories in the Aegean Sea beyond three miles from the Turkish coast were ceded to Greece, with the exception of three groups of islands.
Presently, Turkey claims a territorial sea of six nautical miles and has not exercised its claim over the 12 nautical miles from its coast in the Aegean Sea. **Hence, option d is the correct.**

Knowledge Base:

The Aegean is connected through the straits of the Dardanelles, the Sea of Marmara, and the Bosporus to the Black Sea, while the island of Crete can be taken as marking its boundary on the south. It is also considered the cradle of two of the great early civilizations, those of Crete and Greece, from which much of modern Western culture is derived.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/explained-why-are-turkey-and-greece-at-odds-over-islands-in-the-aegean-sea/article65518758.ece
https://www.britannica.com/place/Aegean-Sea

Q.31) Consider the following events in the history of India:
1. Rise of Pratiharas under King Bhoja
2. Establishment of Pallava power under Mahendravarman-I
3. Establishment of Chola power by Parantaka-I
4. Pala dynasty founded by Gopala
What is the correct chronological order of the above events, starting from the earliest time?
a) 2 – 1 – 4 - 3
b) 3 – 1 – 4 - 2
c) 2 – 4 – 1 - 3
d) 3 – 4 – 1 – 2

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
600-630 CE: Mahendravarman – I
750-770 CE: Foundation of Pala Dynasty in Bihar and Bengal region
836-885 CE: Rise of Pratiharas under King Mihir Bhoja
907-955 CE: Reign of Parantaka-I
Source: UPSC CSE 2020

Q.32) With reference to Early Medieval History of South India, who were Samantas?
a) Wandering ascetics who renounced the world to seek truth.
b) Superintendent of pearl fisheries.
c) Higher officials in the Chola administration.
d) Semi-independent local chiefs.

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Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

Option a is incorrect: Ascetics who gave up worldly life to live a simple life, seeking truth were known as Sramana (not Samanta) in Ancient India. Hence this option is incorrect.

This term was broadly applied to monks and renunciants who followed non-orthodox, non-Brahmanical religious philosophies like Jainism, Buddhism, Ajivikas, etc.

Option b is incorrect: The superintendent of pearl fisheries in the Mauryan administration was known as Kalatika (not Samanta). Hence this option is **incorrect.**

Statement c is incorrect: The Higher officials in the Imperial Chola administration, especially those in the king's court in the capital were termed Perudan (not Samanta). Hence this option is **incorrect.**

Statement d is correct: The term 'samanta' originally meant 'neighbour' and referred to the independent ruler of an adjacent territory. But by the end of Gupta rule and by sixth century a new meaning of the term was adopted. 'Samanta' implied a subjected but reinstated tributary prince of a realm. They were semi-independent local chiefs. The rise of the 'samantas' was a distinctive feature of the growth of medieval realms.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67711/1/Block-2.pdf

Q.33) With reference to the history of South India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Muttaiyal	Obligatory labour services to be provided to state officials
2. Paraicheri	Socially segregated groups considered ritually impure.
3. Nettal	brokerage fee levied on middlemen of the trade.

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

a) Only one pair

b) Only two pairs

c) All the three pairs

d) None of the above

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

Pair 1 is correct: Muttaiyal referred to the labour services that the villagers were obligated to provide (compulsory unpaid labour) to the state officials in the Imperial Chola empire. Hence this option pairing is **correct.**

Pair 2 is incorrect: Paraicheri referred to the residential quarters of agricultural labours (not a section of society) during the reign of the Imperial Cholas. Hence this pair is incorrect.

The social group of people who were socially and spatially segregated because they were considered ritually impure (something like the Antyaja/ Untouchable in North Indian society), were known as **Paraiyar.**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Nettal referred to a form of compulsory/ unpaid/ forced labour prevalent in the society/ economy of the Imperial Cholas. It is similar to muttaiyal.

Taragu was the brokerage fee levied on middlemen of all trade. Hence this pair is incorrect.

A class of small cultivators during the Imperial Chola times was termed as Vellalars/ Gaudas in the Imperial Chola empire.

Source: Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.42

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Q.34) With reference to the administration under the Imperial Cholas, consider the following statements:
1. Udankottam was the assembly of elders in the villages.
2. In the central administration, higher officials were known as Peruntaram and lower officials were known as Siruntaram.
3. The officials were paid salaries strictly in cash.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 only
c) 2 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Under them, various illustrious rulers like Aditya Chola, Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra Chola, etc contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit). It was one of the biggest empires of South India and had a very detailed administrative machinery.

Statement 1 is correct: In Chola administration, king was the most important person, and **there was a Council of a minister called Udankottam** to advise him. The lowest unit of administration was the village. They combined to form a nadu. A valanadu comprised of a few nadus. Taniyur was a separate village or settlement site. Above valanadu there was mandalam which was equivalent to a province.

Statement 2 is correct: In the central government of the Chola Empire, the higher officials were known as Peruntaram, while the lower officials were known as Siruntaram.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The officials were paid salaries by awarding grants of revenue-bearing lands, which they could collect and keep for themselves. They were not paid salaries in cash strictly. Hence this statement is **incorrect.**

Source: Ancient Indian History by Upinder Singh, Ch-10, Pg-590, 591;
Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.39

Q.35) Which of the following best describes the term Triple Dip La Nina, recently in news?
a) It is the event when La Nina occurs thrice in a given year.
b) It is a situation where the La Niña period extends for up to three consecutive winters.
c) It is the event when La Nina, positive Indian Ocean Dipole and Southern Oscillations happen simultaneously.
d) It is the event when La Nina is followed by an El Nino event for three years continuously.

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

La Nina means cooler-than-normal ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator. El Niño and La Niña episodes typically last for about nine months to a year. They usually develop in the March-June period, and are the strongest during winter (November-January in the northern hemisphere), before weakening or dissipating by March or April of next year. Occasionally, however, they continue for much longer periods.

Option b is correct: 'Triple Dip' La Niña is a period where the La Niña period **extends for up to three consecutive winters**. For instance, La Niña phenomenon started building up in September 2020 and will continue for another six months. The ongoing La Niña phase of the equatorial Pacific Ocean has just been

predicted to persist for at least another six months, making it one of the longest ever La Niña episodes in recorded history.
Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-climate/india-monsoon-the-triple-dip-la-nina-8162945/

Q.36) With reference to the administration in villages in the Imperial Chola empire, consider the following statements:
1. There was no interference of the king in the village administration.
2. Women were not allowed to be a part of the village administration.
3. All members of the village assemblies were landowning Brahmins.
Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) None of the above

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Statement 1 is incorrect: There was a very close relationship between the village assemblies which looked after local governance and the King's court. Hence this statement is incorrect.
The Uttaramerur inscription from the reign of Parantaka I mention in explicit detail, how the decisions of the assemblies were made only in the presence of an official specially deputed by the King. Another inscription from Thanjavur details how rajaraja I gave direct orders to the village assembly to perform various types of services in the Brihadeswara temple. Hence it is clear that although the village administration was carried out on a day-to-day basis by local self-governing assemblies with wide powers, they were still very much under the overall central control of the Chola king.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Although the society and polity were patriarchal by and large, women were not banned from being a part of the village administration. Hence this statement is incorrect.
For example, a 902 CE inscription states that the village of Bharangiyur was headed by the wife of a man named Bittayya. Another inscription from 1055 Ce states that a woman named Chandiyabbe was the Aguvandi, i.e., the village chieftain and another woman named Jakkiyabbe was her mantraki (counsellor).
Statement 3 is incorrect: The decision making, especially in local matters was done by local corporate bodies of the settlement (both in villages and towns). There were many types of assemblies in the Chola polity. All of them did not have the same type of membership. Hence this statement is incorrect.
In the Brahmadeya villages, the assemblies, known as the Sabha, was constituted of Brahmins, but other factors such as property ownership, family antecedents, learning, good conduct, etc too had a bearing on who would be a part of these assemblies. On the other hand, in the non brahmadeya villages, often known as Vellanvagai villages, the assemblies were known as Ur. Its members included the tax paying landowners of the village, most of whom were non-Brahmins.
Source: Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.39, 9.40, 9.41;
Ancient Indian History by Upinder Singh, Ch-10, Pg-592, 593

Q.37) With reference to the social conditions during the time of the Imperial Cholas, consider the following statements:
1. Unlike north, residential quarters in Chola settlements were not segregated based on caste.
2. Compared to its contemporary North Indian societies, conditions of the Shudra Varna were much better in the Chola society.
3. The Chola society had a twofold caste division based on profession.

4. There was no practise of untouchability in the Chola society.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 4 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 2 and 4 only

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Under them, various illustrious rulers like Aditya Chola, Parantaka I, Rajaraja I, Rajendra Chola, etc contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit).

Statement 1 is incorrect: Much like the contemporary North Indian society, in Chola society too, there were hierarchies and distinctions based on castes, which were closely linked to the professions of people. So, people of a profession lived together in a residential quarter that was separate and demarcated from the residential quarter of another caste/ professional group. For example, in a non-brahmadeya village settlement, Ur (which was the basic unit of settlement in Chola times),

- **Ur nattam: was the residential quarter of landowning farmers.**
- **Kammanacheri: was the residential quarter of the artisans.**
- **Paraicheri: was the residential quarter of the agricultural labourers.**

Hence this statement is incorrect, as all groups of society did not live together undemracated from each other in the same residential area.

Statement 2 is correct: The Shudras in the Chola society were identified with the Vellalas. The vellalas were land holders and practised agriculture and were economically much more well off than the Shudras in North Indian society. Their economic strength gave them a better say in social matters and improved their social standing. Thus, they were not subject to much of the issues that the Shudras in North Indian society had to endure. **Hence this statement is correct.**

Statement 3 is correct: Other than the concept of Varna division that became a part of South Indian society as well, the Chola society had a unique supra-caste dichotomy, over and above the regular Varna divisions. The society was divided into two caste groups.
1) Idangai: left hand caste groupings. Consisted mainly of artisanal and trading groups.
2) Valangai: right hand caste groupings. Consisted mainly of agricultural groups.
Hence this statement is **correct.**

Statement 4 is incorrect: The social evil of Untouchability existed in Chola society as well. Hence this statement is incorrect.
While the untouchables were known as Antyaja/ Chandalas in North Indian society, they were known as Paraiyar in Chola society. They were segregated spatially (did not live with the rest of the population) as well as socially (interactions of other social groups with them were limited).
Source:
Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.41, 9.42;
Ancient Indian History by Upinder Singh, Ch-10, Pg-592

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Q.38) With reference to the external relations of the Imperial Cholas, consider the following statements:
1. The Cholas were the first to introduce Indian culture and Hinduism to the Malay Archipelago.
2. Throughout their history, Sailendra dynasty of Malay peninsula had cordial relations with the Chola empire.
3. China was the only Asian country not on friendly terms with the Cholas.
Which of the statements given above is/ are ***incorrect***?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) d

Exp) Option d is the correct answer.

The Imperial Cholas were one of the regional dynasties ruling areas of South India in the 10th century CE. Various illustrious rulers of this dynasty contributed immensely to growth of trade, economic prosperity, as well as development of Arts -such architecture, Temple building (golden period of Dravidian style temples), Bronze sculpting, as well as Literature (Tamil & Sanskrit). This empire had well established external relations, especially of trade and commerce with nations of Southeast Asia. The Cholas also led many military expeditions to conquer these regions as well.

Statement 1 is incorrect: Indians had been in touch with South East Asia since the 5th century CE, when many Indians began colonising countries of the Indochina (Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, etc) and the Malay Archipelago (Java, Sumatra, Bali, etc). They settled as traders and in time some of them conquered these territories starting their own dynasties like the Kamboja, Sri Vijaya and the Shailendra dynasty, etc. These were responsible for introducing Indian culture (languages like Sanskrit, literature like Mahabharat, Ramayana, etc, religious philosophies such as Shaivism/ Vaishnavism? Buddhism, etc). So Indian culture had been introduced in these regions before the military expeditions and conquest by the Cholas. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

Statement 2 is *incorrect*: The Sailendra dynasty ruled the Malay peninsula, notably the islands of Java. They were Mahayana Buddhists and built the famous UNESCO World Heritage Site of Borobudur. They had cordial relations with the Imperial Cholas. In fact, despite being an ardent Shaivite, Rajendra I Chola allowed them to build a Buddhist monastery in Nagapattinam and at his insistence, Rajendra I even endowed a village to this monastery for its upkeep. However, it must be noted that later on, as the Sailendra dynasty was ruling the Sri Vijaya empire, they came into conflict with the Cholas, as Rajendra I successfully led a military expedition to conquer the Malay peninsula under the Sri Vijaya kingdom. **Hence this statement is incorrect.**

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Cholas had maintained friendly relations with the Chinese from the very start. Hence this statement is incorrect.

The main focus of Chola's relations with China was trade and commerce. In fact, Rajaraja I and his son Rajendra I both waged wars against the Sailendra dynasty of Malay peninsula in order to claim naval supremacy so that any and all hindrances to Indian traders in trade with China could be removed and trade could be expanded. Both these rulers as well as Kulottunga I sent ambassadors representing Chola interests to the court of the Chinese emperor, often with tributes such as glassware, brocades, ivory and rhinoceros' horns.

Source: Ancient & Medieval Indian History by Poonam Dalal Dahiya, Ch-9, Pg-9.36, 9.37, 9.46, 9.47

Q.39) The term 'Muvendar' is often mentioned in the Sangam Literature. Which of the following best describes the term Muvendar?
a) They were the crowned kings of Chola, Pandya and Chera kingdoms of Sangam era.

b) They were high-ranked officials in the Chola kingdom during Sangam era.
c) Muvendar were the titles given to the poets in the Sangam era.
d) This is the term used for a class of people who belonged to the lower strata of society during Sangam era.

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Option 1 is correct: Muvendars were the 'crowned kings'. The Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas were the Muvendars or three major kings, who controlled large territories and ruled independently. Muvendar was the most powerful political authority in contemporary Tamizhakam. Next to them was the political authority of velir. The main concern of all the three ruling groups-Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas was the subordination of velir chiefs who were next in importance. Muvendar had several such subjugated chiefs as their subordinates serving them in plunder raids.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/62863/1/Block-7.pdf

Q.40) With reference to 'Sammed Shikharji' recently in news, consider the following statements:
1. It is located on the Parasnath hill in Jharkhand.
2. Recently, it has been declared an intangible cultural heritage site by UNESCO.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) a
Exp) Option a is the correct answer.
Sammed Shikharji is a Jain pilgrimage site located in Jharkhand. The Jain community has been protesting lately to overturn a state government decision declaring it as a tourist spot.
Statement 1 is correct: Sammed Shikharji is located on the Parasnath hill in the Giridih district of Jharkhand. 'Parasnath' comes from 'Parshvanatha', the 23rd Jain tirthankara who attained moksha here.
Statement 2 is incorrect: Sammed Shikharji has **not been declared an intangible cultural heritage**. The **Jain community does not want the place to turn into an eco-tourism spot** because it is considered to be the biggest pilgrimage site by both the Digambaras and the Svetambaras. It is believed that it is the place where 20 of the 24 Jain tirthankaras, who are Jain spiritual leaders, along with many other monks attained 'moksha'or salvation after meditating.
Note: Parasnath hill is the highest mountain in the state of Jharkhand.
Knowledge Base: According to beliefs of the Jain community, Shikharji is ranked with Ashtapad, Girnar, Dilwara Temples of Mount Abu and Shatrunjaya as the 'Svetambara Pancha Tirth' or the five principal pilgrimage shrines.
Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/destination-of-the-week/jain-pilgrimage-site-sammed-shikharji-jharkhand-controversy-pilgrimage-site-tourism-8356062/
https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/india-IN?info=elements-on-the-lists

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Q.41) In the context of the history of India, consider the following pairs:

Term	Description
1. Eripatti	Land, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank
2. Taniyurs	Villages donated to a single Brahmin or a group of Brahmins
3. Ghatikas	Colleges generally attached to the temples

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
Pair 1 is correctly matched: Eripatti was a special category of land known in South India. This land was donated by individuals, revenue from which was set apart for the maintenance of the village tank.
Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Taniyur is a term related to the administration of the Chola Empire (850-1200 AD-). Under this, all the villages were the same as an autonomous unit. Each village together formed a nadu (local area). Many village associations under Nadu were called Kurrams. Taniyur or Tankurram were Kurrams formed in large cities.
Pair 3 is correctly matched: A Ghatika was a centre of learning including religion and was small in size. It is a **college generally attached to the temples**.
Source: UPSC CSE 2016

Q.42) Consider the following pairs regarding the major ports in the kingdom of Chola, Chera, and Pandyas during Sangam age:

Kingdom	-	Major Port
1. Chola	-	Puhar
2. Chera	-	Uraiyur
3. Pandya	-	Korkai

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2, and 3

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
The three principal chiefdoms of the Sangam age i.e., the Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas had their strongholds both in the interior as well as on the sea coast. The major seaports of the three kingdoms are mentioned below:

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Statement 1 is correct: The **Cholas** had the **Uraiyur** port on Cauvery River and **Puhar** on the coromandel coast as their strongholds. Uraiyur was also the capital of Cholas. Puhar was also known as Kaveripattanam.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The **Cheras** had **Karur** port in the interior and **Muchiris** the well-known ancient port, on their west coast. **Uraiyur** port belonged to Cholas. **So, the statement is incorrect.**
Statement 3 is correct: The **Pandyan kingdom** was also known for its pearl fisheries. The Pandyas had **Madurai, Korkai, Kayal, and periyapattanam** as their major ports. Korkai was famous for the pearls and pearl fishing.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20157/1/Unit-28.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/61908/1/Unit-5.pdf
Poonam dalal dhaiya history

Q.43) Consider the following pairs regarding the different types of chiefdoms in the Sangam age:

Chief	Description
1. Vendar	They were Headmans of the villages.
2. Velir	They were mostly the chiefs of hill areas.
3. Kizhar	They were the biggest chief who controlled Vendar and Velir.

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 1 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) b
Exp) Option b is the correct answer.
During the Sangam age, there were several chiefdoms of clans, some big and others very small. The relatively larger chiefdoms were born out of conquests and the subjugation of smaller ones. There were three different kinds of chiefdoms in Tamilazam. They were of the kizhar, velir and vendar categories of chiefs.
Pair 1 is incorrect: Vendar are the biggest category of all the chieftains (not the village headman). These chiefs had control over peoples of larger areas. **They had several lesser chiefs like velir and kizhar under their service and paying tributes to them.** An example of vendar is the Muvendar.
Pair 2 is correct: The velir or bigger chiefs were mostly hill chieftains, though they controlled lowlands too. The hill chief were mostly hunter chiefs, vetar-koman or kuravar-koman or nedu vettuvan. Vetar, kuravar and vettuvar were the major clansmen of the hills dominated by the velir.
Pair 3 is incorrect: The Kizhar or little chiefs were headmen of small villages (Ur) (not the biggest chiefs), generally bound by kinship. They are referred to by being prefixed with the name of their respective villages, an example being Arnkantur-kizhar. They were subjugated by the bigger chiefs and had to serve them in their campaigns.
Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20157/1/Unit-28.pdf

www.forumstudymaterials.org

Q.44) Consider the following statements with reference to society during Sangam age:
1. Early Sangam people were primarily pastoralists.
2. Women were generally associated with household works and did not participate in other major economic activities.
3. The practice of Sati was prevalent in Sangam society.
4. The concept of Varna was unknown to the people of the Sangam age.
Which of the statements given above are correct?
a) 2 and 3 only
b) 1, 3 and 4 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans) c
Exp) Option c is the correct answer.
The Sangam age refers to that period in the early history of south India when large numbers of poems in Tamil were composed by a number of authors. The term Sangam refers to an assembly or "meeting together" of Tamil poets.
Statement 1 is correct: The narrative and didactic texts of Sangam literature suggest several stages of social evolution. **They show that the early Sangam people were primarily pastoralists.**
Statement 2 is incorrect: Women were actively engaged in economic production. Women are described as **engaged in various economic activities such** as paddy plantation, **cattle rearing**, basket-making, **spinning**, etc.
Statement 3 is correct: **The cruel practice of Sati was also prevalent in Tamil society, and it was known as Tippayadal**. But it was not obligatory as there are references to widows present in society. However, their position was miserable as they were prohibited to decorate themselves or participate in any form of amusement.
Statement 4 is incorrect: The Concept of Varna was known to the people of Sangam age. Though the concept of varna was known, social classes in the Sangam period were not marked by higher or lower rankings as in north India. For example, Brahmans were present in the society and they performed Vedic ceremonies and sacrifices and also acted as advisers to the chief but they enjoyed no special privileges compared to North India.
Source: https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/History_Module1.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22251/5/Unit-10.pdf
TN SCERT-CH5-evolution of society in south india
Old NCERT-CH18-The dawn of history in deep south

Q.45) Consider the following pairs of Elephant reserves and their respective location in India:

Elephant Reserves	:	**Location**
1. Singphan	:	Nagaland
2. Agsthyamalai	:	Kerala
3. Dandeli	:	Odisha
4. Lemru	:	Chhattisgarh

How many of the above given pairs are correctly matched?
a) Only one pair
b) Only two pairs
c) Only three pairs
d) All the four pairs

Ans) b

Exp) Option b is the correct answer.

The Indian elephant occurs in the central and southern Western Ghats, North-east India, eastern India and northern India and in some parts of southern peninsular India. **It is included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)**. It o**ccurs in 16 of the 28 states in the country. Project Elephant was launched by the Government of India in the year 1992.** There are total of 33 elephant reserves in India.

Pair 1 is correct: The **Singphan Elephant Reserve is located in Mon district of Nagaland** and spreads over an area of 5825 acres (2357 hac). It is strategically located in contiguity with the Abhaypur Reserve Forest of Assam. The creation of reserve will give better protection and conservation of elephants in the state.

Pair 2 is incorrect: Recently, the Government of India has announced the notification of one more Elephant Reserve (ER) Agasthiyamalai in Tamil Nadu during a programme in the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. **Agasthiyamalai is Tamil Nadu's 5th Elephant Reserve and also a Biosphere Reserve.**

Pair 3 is incorrect: Along with neighboring Anshi National Park (339.87 square kilometres (83,980 acres), the sanctuary was declared part of the Anshi Dandeli Tiger Reserve in 2006. **Karnataka state government has officially notified the Dandeli Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant on 4 June 2015**. The elephant reserve is spread over 2,321 km2, including 475 km2 as core and the remaining as buffer areas.

Pair 4 is correct: Recently, the Chhattisgarh government has proposed to reduce the area of Lemru Elephant Reserve from 1,995 sq km to 450 sq km. The **reserve is located in the Korba district of Chhattisgarh. The reserve is aiming at reducing human-animal conflict and destruction of property in addition to providing a permanent habitat to the elephants**. Earlier, the state government **notified the reserve (Conservation Reserve) in October 2020 under Section 36A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (WLPA).**

Source: http://www.wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ElephantReserves_8226.aspx
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/new-elephant-reserve-to-come-up-at-agasthyamalai-says-union-minister-bhupender-yadav/article65762469.ece
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-a-proposed-elephant-reserve-in-chhattisgarh-and-its-reduced-area-7400025/

Q.46) Consider the following statements with reference to the Economy in Sangam period:
1. This period saw flourishing trade with the Rome due to discovery of monsoon.
2. During this period, the barter system of exchange was followed due to complete absence of coins.
3. Umanar were salt merchants who traveled in bullock carts along with their families for trade activities.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 and 3 only
c) 1 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The people were engaged in various economic activities such as agriculture, crafts, and trade. Paddy was the most important crop. It formed the main part of people's diet and also served as a medium of barter exchange for inland trade.

Statement 1 is correct: The most important feature of the Sangam economy was flourishing trade with the Roman world. It is confirmed by the recovery of a large number of Roman gold coins in south India. **The discovery of monsoons and the use of a land and sea route between Indian coasts and the western**

world was the main reason for the growth of this trade. Commodities from Tamilakam had a great demand in Rome. Black pepper, cardamom, pearls and gemstones, especially Beryl which was mined from sites in Kodumanal, Padiyur and Vaniyampadi, were highly sought after in Rome.

Statement 2 is incorrect: In trade, barter system was much in vogue (very popular), **though coins were also in use.** Roman coins circulated as bullion.

Statement 3 is correct: Salt merchants called Umanars, traveled in bullock carts along with their families for trade activities**.**

Source: TN SCERT-CH5-evolution of society in south india
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/History_Module1.pdf

Q.47) Which of the statements is/are correct with reference to religious beliefs and practices during Sangam age?

1. This period witnessed conflict and animosity between north Indian and south Indian religious traditions.
2. Sangam Literature Paripadal has references to Vishnu, Shiva, and Durga.
3. Local people during Sangam Age worshipped a deity called Murugan.

Select the correct option using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1 and 3 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The evidence for the movement of Brahmins and the performance of Vedic ritual practices is found in the Sangam texts. But the varnashrama ideology was yet to take root in the Tamil region.

Statement 1 is incorrect: In the field of religion**, Sangam period witnessed a close and peaceful interaction between north Indian and south Indian traditions (not the conflict and animosity).** The evidence for the movement of Brahmins and the performance of Vedic ritual practices is found in the Sangam texts. There are also references to the presence of Buddhists and Jains in Tamil region**.**

Statement 2 is correct: The Paripatal the eighth anthology contains some poems that deal with chiefly four deities - Vishnu, Shiva, Durga, and Murugan.

Statement 3 is correct: The local people, particularly those of the hills, worshipped a deity called Murugan, which in northern India come to be identified with Kartikeya, a war god.

Source: TN SCERT-CH5-evolution of society in south India
https://nios.ac.in/media/documents/SrSec315NEW/History_Module1.pdf

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding the Kalabhras kingdom:

1. Kalabhras brought an end to the rule of the Pallavas in South India.
2. The rulers of Kalabhras were patrons of the Jain and Buddhist religions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

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The period between the Sangam Age and the Pallava-Pandya period, roughly between c. 300 CE and 600 CE, is known as the age of Kalabhras in the history of Tamizhagam.

Statement 1 is correct: The Kalabhras brought an end to the rule of the Pallavas, likewise, the Kalabhras became the cause for the decline of the early Pandyas. The period of the rule of Kalabhras is called an interregnum or 'dark age' by earlier historians.

Statement 2 is correct: The rulers of the Kalabhras kingdom were patrons of the Jain and Buddhist religions. The recent interpretation of the period takes it as a period of transition leading to enlarged state societies under the Pallavas ruling over northern Tamilnadu and the Pandyas in the south from the sixth century onwards. To start with, the rulers of these new states were patrons of the Jain and Buddhist religions and gradually they came under the spell of the orthodox Vedic-Puranic religion emerging in the form of the Bhakti cults of Saivism and Vaishnavism. But the influence of Jain and Buddhist religions on the general society was so strong as to evoke much aversion from the Bhakti saints.

Source: Pg 91, ch 5, TN SCERT.

Q.49) In Tamil poetry, there is a description of five ecological-zones or Tinai. In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Kurinji is a hill area, dominated by hunting and gathering activities.
2. Palai is the pastoral tract, where the major activity was animal rearing.
3. Mullai is an arid area.
4. Neytal is the seacoast, dominated by fishing.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

a) 2 and 4 only
b) 1, 2, and 3 only
c) 1 and 4 only
d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Ans) c

Exp) Option c is the correct answer.

The ancient Tamils had divided the Tamil country into five distinct ecological zones, with each zone having its own characteristics. Each zone with its distinct characteristics is called Tinai. The five ecozones are kurinji, palai, mullai, marutam, and neytal. People from each ecozone went out interacting with the peoples of the other ecozone and entered into barter of goods. The five ecozones are:

Marutam are the wetland or riverine zone, where the people pursue plough agriculture. Indra was the god of this region.

Statement 1 is correct: The **Kurinji landscape was the mountainous or hill zone**. The people who lived in this zone are called kuravan. Hunting and gathering was the main occupation here. Muruga was the God of Kurinji.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Palai was the dry, semi-arid zone. As such there is no desert land in the ancient Tamil country, the landscapes of Kurinji and Mullai, during the dry climate or in the time of rain failure, became parched and resulted in the formation of Palai land. Korravai was the goddess of this region.

Statement 3 is incorrect: **Mullai was the pastoral zone**. Pastoralists lived in this region and animal husbandry was the main occupation. Vishnu was the God of this region

Statement 4 is correct: The Neytal was the coastal zone. The people who lived here were known as Paratavars. Varuana was the God of this region. Fishing and salt mining were the main occupations.

Source: https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/20157/1/Unit-28.pdf
https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/22251/5/Unit-10.pdf

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Q.50) With reference to 'National Hydrology Project', consider the following statements:
1. It is Central Sector scheme sponsored by Ministry of Jal Shakti with financial aid from the World Bank.
2. The primary objective of the project is to ensure the integrated development of rainfed areas using the watershed approach.
3. The initiative of 'Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga River Basin' is one of the components under the National Hydrology Project.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
a) 1 and 2 only
b) 2 only
c) 2 and 3 only
d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) d
Exp) Option d is the correct answer.
The National Hydrology Project (NHP) of India is a government-run project that aims to improve the understanding and management of water resources in the country. National Hydrology Project was **started in 2016** as a Central Sector Scheme with **100% grant to implementing agencies** on pan India basis.
Statement 1 is correct: The National Hydrology Project (NHP) is **Central Sector scheme sponsored by Ministry of Jal Shakti,** Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt. of India **with financial aid from the World Bank**.
Statement 2 is incorrect: The objective of the project is to improve the **extent and accessibility of water resources information** and strengthen institutional capacity to enable improved water resources planning and management across India. It aims to create a **centralized database of hydrological information**, including data on precipitation, streamflow, and groundwater levels.
It is **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana** that aims ensure the **integrated development of rainfed areas using the watershed approach.**
Statement 3 is correct: Glacial Lake Atlas of Ganga River Basin is a project that aims to create a **comprehensive atlas of glacial lakes in the Ganges River basin** in India and Nepal, which will help to **identify potential hazards associated with glacial lake outburst floods** (GLOFs) and to develop strategies for managing these hazards. It is an **initiative under National Hydrology Project** (NHP) is a step forward for facilitating the acquisition of reliable information and putting the same in the public domain.
Source: https://bhuvan.nrsc.gov.in/nhp/
https://nhp.mowr.gov.in/HomeNew/Glacial_Lake_Atlas_Ganga_Basin_NRSC.pdf
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1731154
https://vikaspedia.in/agriculture/policies-and-schemes/crops-related/pradhan-mantri-krishi-sinchai-yojana

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